

James Quick, Pelee Island.

At Leamington, Ont., Oct. 11, 1893.

Mr. Quick belongs on Pelee Island, where he fishes one pound. His brother also has one and they fish together. He is 34 years old, and has fished on Pelee Island since he was 15 years old.

The fall catch of whitefish is made at his pound mostly between Oct. 11 and 25; after that time they begin to fall off.

His pound is on east of the island; on other parts of the island the fishing is not entirely the same.

His November fishing on an average will not exceed 400 pounds whitefish. The biggest lift made during November 1892, did not exceed 75 pounds.

There is no trouble in returning alive to the water all the whitefish he takes in

November, and this he has done all along.

There has been a little gill netting done from Pelee Island, but not much. Nearly all the fishing there is with pound nets.

Last spring he caught more whitefish in his pound than ever before.

Has taken whitefish with spawn running from them, but only an occasional specimen, beginning October 20. The bulk of the spawners, however, come the first part of December.

He finds that fish spawn more or less all the year, although the bulk may spawn at one time.

They have never taken any spawn for the Canadian hatchery at Pelee Island.

Neither whitefish nor herring were more abundant on Pelee Island when he began fishing. They vary, however, in abundance from year to year.

The first pounds were set on Pelee Island about 1857 or 1858. Before that drag seines were used to some extent at Fish Point, and some very large catches were made. Had heard especially of white bass and sturgeon being taken there in the seines.

(Eight inches, or about 1 pound, is a large size for white bass. They do not average over $1/2$ pound. They are very fine pan fish. Used to be very abundant, but seem to have been nearly exterminated for a time. Now they are coming back. They school at the surface, and are the only species seen so schooling in Lake Erie:---J. W. Post).

Two weeks into December would be the extreme length of their fishing with pounds on Pelee Island.

To protect the spawning time of the herring and whitefish, the close season should begin November 20 to 25, and continue through the winter.

3 Could not increase the size of the mesh in the pot (crib) of the pound nets above the present size (2 and 2 1/4 inches extended), without gilling a large part of the catch. Large numbers would die, and many would become blood marked on the surface and unfit for market.

While you might save some small fish by this means, you would kill large numbers of the larger ones, and there would be no gain accomplished.

In his pound uses 5 inch tunnel, 7 inch heart, 8 inch lead. Does not care what the size of the mesh is outside of the pot. The size of mesh mostly used in the heart is 5 inches.

2 He once used a 3 inch mesh (ext.) funnel, but had to give it up, as the fish gilled in it too much.

(The twine used generally for the pounds is 15 to 18 thread, medium laid, and is the

same in all parts of the pound:---Capt. J. W. Post.)

14 years ago he caught 2 salmon trout in his pound. These were the only ones he has ever taken.

(A few salmon trout are sometimes taken in the gill nets off Erie in deep water, but there is no real fishery for them in this lake. The water being too shoal. They need not be considered in making regulations:--- Capt. J. W. Post.)

The season when they take black bass mainly in the pounds is from about May 20 to June 10. The biggest part of his catch is sometimes black bass, as far as value is concerned. His pound is located near the quarters of the Pelee Island Club, which fishes for bass, and where they sometimes make big catches with hook and line.

Never fish the pounds on Pelee Island much later than the latter part of June. Then

remove the nets and replace them between August 25 and middle of September.

Bass used to be much more abundant than they are, but there has been little difference during past 2 years.

The Pelee Island Club has always had permission to catch bass during the close season up to the present time.

Bass may not travel long distances, but whitefish and herring he thinks do, as the tugs follow the schools long distances. Everything connected with the pound net fishery indicates that the schools are on the move from place to place, being taken first in one pound, then in another, and another in succession.

Mr. Quick's pound is on the East side of Pelee Island. He begins to catch herring about 1 day after they are first taken in the pounds at Point Pelee. On the west side of Pelee Island the herring do not come in until much later.

In the spring he will make some good hauls of blue pickerel.

Gray pickerel are caught early in the spring, and their nets are not set early enough to do much with this species.

Does not think the close season for pickerel does any good. Only a few pickerel are taken during the fall.

For his total catch last spring (1 pound), Mr. Quick received about \$168. His fall catch this year up to the present time, has brought him in only about \$100. During the fall of 1892, it brought him about \$250. These, excepting the catch of the present fall, not yet complete, may be regarded as quite good catches for a single pound on Pelee Island, and show how little can be made from one pound. The pound license costs \$50. per year, which he thinks should be reduced.

Mr. Hillman, on the east side of Rendeau,

on the mainland, made a catch last year which brought him in \$1,400. in one pound. The fishing is much better there than on Pelee Island.

(The best sites for pounds are those in the bights of bays or any indentations along the coast. The fish seem to strike directly in to such places, and when they move out, keep away from the points and do not run so abundantly along the straight shores:--J. W. Post.)

Pelee Island does not furnish as good fishing as places on the main Canadian shore. They fish at that island on rather a small scale, and those who engage in it are not entirely dependent upon it for a living, having farms generally to work besides. This island grows many grapes and wine is made there.

On a straight coast there should not be more than 1 line of twine to each mile of shore

In some places it might be best to arrange the matter differently. They might be closer together in some places than in others, dependent upon the configuration of the coast. Their exact assignment might be left to the discretion of a good overseer.

If not allowed to fish herring during most of November, or if obliged to use a 3 1/2 inch mesh in the herring pounds, they will be forced to stop fishing, as they could not make it pay. This applies to all of Pelee Island. There would not be a pound stake driven next spring.

It would be very easy to enforce any regulations on Pelee Island, as the nets are few. There is a local fishery overseer there now. Regulations would not be violated there. They have too much at stake to risk a forfeiture of their apparatus or fishing privileges.

The making of one pound, cost of material,

boat, pile driver, work of placing, etc.,
amounts to about \$400. Each additional
pound would add about \$200.